

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William A. Di Bianca (Reg. No. 58,653) on 9 September 2009.

Cancel claims 26-44.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 1, none of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, "A method of processing, by a machine, composite components comprising at least a support device and a stamp pad by means of a processing device whereby at least one operating head of a material removing unit and the composite component are moved relative to one another by means of a handling unit controlled and/or regulated by a control unit, ... wherein the stamp pad of the composite component which is at least partially joined to the support device is divided into several pad parts spaced at a distance apart from one another by means of a dividing gap by the material -removing unit and wherein at least one effector unit ... can be displaced and positioned by means of the handling unit." No patentable weight is being given to the following phrase in claim 1 of "which preferably incorporates at least one dispensing unit of the ink

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dispenser unit and the operating head of the material-removing device” since the word “preferably” shows that this limitation is not mandatory.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey S. Evans whose telephone number is (571)-272-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571)-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Geoffrey S Evans/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742